

REMARKS

Election of Species Requirement

In the Office Action of October 4, 2004, the Examiner issued an election requirement between four allegedly patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. Applicant elects to prosecute Species III of FIGURES 66-70 without traverse. Claims 1-19, 21, 23-28, 30-34, and 36-47 are readable upon elected Species III. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the above election. Applicant points out that this response to election requirement is accompanied by a preliminary amendment.

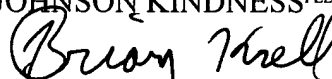
Preliminary Amendment

Applicant has amended Claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 36 to further point out and distinctly claim the novel aspects of the claimed embodiments of the present invention and not for reasons of patentability. New Claims 48 and 49 have been added. Applicant submits that the new Claims 48 and 49 are readable upon elected Species III. Claims 4 and 37 have been canceled.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Consideration and examination of the application, as amended, and allowance of the claims at an early date are solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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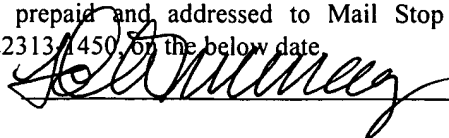
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date:

BDK:bdk/tmm

October 27, 2004



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